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Organic farming for a new millennium
-status and future challenges

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Organic production in Finland

- First farm started in 1927
- First still existing organic farm started in the 1960s
- First years of inspection:
  - Luomuliitto - The Finnish Association for Organic Farming since 1986,
  - Ministry of Agric. and Forestry since 1994

Name of inspector: KTTK – Kasvintuotannon tarkastuskeskus (The Plant Production Inspection Centre)

Education, 100%: University of Helsinki, Institute for Rural Research and Training: degrees in Bachelor of Science (BSc) and courses in Ecological Agriculture. The degree consists of studies at the University of Helsinki and at European cooperation universities. Master courses (MSc) in the Nordic NOVA cooperation network.

Research: The main research institute, MTT – Agrifood Research Finland uses approx. 3,6% of its financing on organic production research projects.

Export: Cereals to other EU countries and the US approx. 15 million kg per annum.
  - Shiitake mushrooms, forest berries (2004-2005)

Present Status of the Policy and Market Environment of the Finnish Organic Sector:

- Target of 10% surface area has been set for organic production in 2006.
- Organic production receives public subsidies. The sum during the initial five years is €147/ha and €102/ha thereafter. The subsidy is equal to every culture. Also, as from 2005 organic animal production has received a subsidy of €90/ha.
- So far, Finland has a surplus of organic cereals and grasslands. About 10% of the cereals have been exported and a great share of organic grasslands and cereals used for feeding conventional animals.
- The total market share of organic products is approximately 1%. The most important organic products are vegetables (24%), milk (17%) and bakery products (11% share of total organic sales).